

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A retaining element provided to retain the front of a boot sole on a ski, said retaining element comprising:

a jaw having a sole-clamp for vertical retention of the boot sole, a body supporting the jaw, said body being mounted on a mounting base provided to be affixedly connected to the ski, the mounting base having, toward a rear of the jaw, at least one bore provided for a screw for assembling to mounting base to the ski, and a support device to receive the support of the boot sole, the mounting base including two co-extensive zones, said co-extensive zones including a front zone on which the body is mounted, and a rear zone that extends rearward of the jaw, in which the bore or bores and the support element are located, the rear zone being lower in relation to the front zone.

2. A retaining element according to claim 1, wherein the rear zone is lower in relation to the front zone by a height between 4 and 10 millimeters.

3. A retaining element according to claim 2, wherein the vertical distance between the upper surface of the support device and the sole-clamp is comprised between 20 and 28 millimeters.

4. A retaining element according to claim 3, wherein the vertical distance between the upper surface of the support device and the sole-clamp is approximately 24 millimeters.

5. A retaining element according to claim 1, wherein the rear zone of the mounting base has two substantially parallel arms that are lower in relation to the front zone.

6. A retaining element according to claim 1, wherein the mounting base rests on a two-level wedge.

7. A retaining element according to claim 1, wherein the support device constructed to be movable.

8. A retaining element according to claim 7, wherein the support device is a support element mounted for rocking movement about a median longitudinal and horizontal axle carried by a support.

9. A retaining element according to claim 7, wherein the support device is a support element movable laterally on both sides of a centered position.

10. A retaining element according to claim 7, wherein the support device is an endless band sliding on a zone of reduced cross-section of the rear zone of the mounting base.